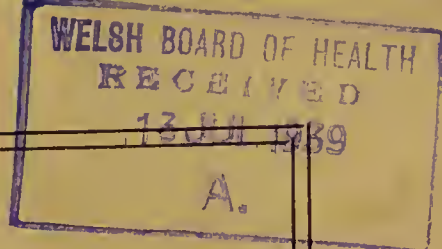


Whitehall



ABERCARN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1938

Chairman of Council:
Councillor F. H. DUNFORD, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee:
Councillor K. ROGERS.

NEWPORT, MON.
THE NEWPORT PRINTING CO., LTD., 12 BANESWELL ROAD.

1939.

Abercarn Urban District Council
1938-1939.

Chairman :
Councillor F. H. DUNFORD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
Councillor FRANK EDWARDS.

Councillor J. DAVIES	Councillor A. E. JONES
„ J. O. EDWARDS	„ R. LEWIS.
„ T. Morgan EDWARDS	„ G. H. MILES
„ D. C. EVANS	„ R. MORRIS
„ W. J. FORD	„ K. ROGERS
„ JACK GAMES	„ D. Granville WEST
„ B. JEFFERIES	„ D. J. WILLIAMS
„ T. JENKINS	„ H. T. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health :
E. M. GRIFFITH, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector :
IVOR JENKINS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

31st May, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. MATTHEWS, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1938—this being my 25th Annual Report—which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 1,728 (Wales).

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area and Population.

	Acreage	Population
1921 Census	9,506	20,122
1931 Census	9,506	20,551
Including Hafodyrynys	9,543	20,726
Mid-year 1937—estimated	9,543	18,750
Mid-year 1938—estimated	9,543	18,510

The estimate of our population is, of course, supplied by the Registrar General, and it will be observed there is an estimated further decrease of 240. Table I at the end of this report gives comparable figures since the last Census.

Inhabited Houses.

1934	4,411	
1935	4,449	(inclusion of Hafodyrynys)
1936	4,462	
1937	4,471	
1938	4,478	

Rateable Value.

					Produce of Penny Rate.
1934	...	...	£67,284	...	£233/15/2
1935	...	...	£67,062	...	£234/12/4
1936	...	...	£67,839	...	£238/ 3/7
1937	...	...	£67,909	...	£236/ 5/4
1938	...	...	£69,185	...	£236/10/11

Social Conditions.

I am glad to say that the improvement in local working conditions referred to in my last report has been maintained during 1938. The collieries have been working much more regularly than for some years past, although districts in pits have been stopped. At one pit work was not too regular due to circumstances over which the company had no control. Apart from these facts, work has been much better. Wages of the colliers are, however, low and it is hard for them to get necessities.

At the tinplate works, there has been a considerable transfer of the employees to the great new works at Ebbw Vale.

Even so, there is considerable unemployment and it is regrettable that so many have now reached an age when they will find it difficult to again obtain work.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	287	146	141
Illegitimate	...	...	...	11	7	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	298	153	145
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate 16·09.

Still Births—						
Legitimate	...	...	...	18	9	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	18	9	9
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 60·40.

Deaths	...	...	...	225	126	99
				Death Rate 12·15.		

Deaths from puerperal causes—

				Deaths
Heading No. 29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	1
Heading No. 30.	Other puerperal causes	...	...	1
				<hr/>
	Total	...	...	2
				<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births 43·62.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	40·26
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	90·90

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	17
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	None
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	None

BIRTHS.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Live Births	298	294	309	378	344

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population:—

Abercarn	16·09	15·68	15·90	19·22	17·44
County	16·1	15·5	15·9	16·12	16·49
England & Wales	15·1	14·9	14·8	14·7	14·8

Still Births	18	16	22	19	24
--------------	----	----	----	----	----

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population:—

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Abercarn	0·97	0·85	1·13	0·96	1·21
County	0·92	0·90	0·96	0·98	0·94
England & Wales	0·60	0·60	0·61	0·62	0·62

Average number of births during the last ten years: 353.

Highest number of births	...	669 in 1920	Birth Rate	...	33·35
Lowest number of births	...	290 in 1906	Birth Rate	...	21·30
Highest Birth Rate	...	48·4 in 1893	Number	...	558
Lowest Birth Rate	...	15·68 in 1937	Number	...	294

Last year we recorded our lowest Birth Rate, and this year whilst there were only a few more births, yet with the reduced population, the rate rises appreciably. This year, however, our birth rate is lower than that for the County, which is unusual.

The natural increase (or excess of births over deaths) was 73, compared with 67 last year, and 93 in 1936.

DEATHS.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Males	126	121	115	116	113
Females	99	106	101	86	96
Total	<hr/> 225 <hr/>	<hr/> 227 <hr/>	<hr/> 216 <hr/>	<hr/> 202 <hr/>	<hr/> 209 <hr/>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population:

Abercarn	12·15	12·10	11·11	10·27	10·59
County	12·1	12·6	12·2	11·5	11·7
England and Wales	11·6	12·4	12·1	11·7	11·8

The number of deaths registered in our district in 1938 was 214, of which 25 belonged to other areas, but 36 deaths of residents occurred away, so that the number of deaths to be taken is 225 compared with 227 last year.

The deaths occurred as follows:

			Last year
First Quarter	69		71
Second Quarter	49		50
Third Quarter	53		48
Fourth Quarter	54	225	58 227

Usually our birth rate is higher than that for the County and our death rate lower, but this year I have to record for the first time that our birth rate is lower than that for the County and our death rate higher.

Average number of deaths per annum for last ten years	...	221
Lowest number of deaths	... 139 in 1906	Death Rate ... 10·2
Highest number of deaths	... 289 in 1901	Death Rate ... 22·9
Lowest Death Rate	... 8·60 in 1926	Number ... 179
Highest death Rate	... 22·9 in 1901	Number ... 289

The causes of deaths were as follows:—

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1938.

1937		ALL CAUSES					M.	F.
227							126	99
—	1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fever ...					—	—
—	2	Measles					—	—
—	3	Scarlet Fever					—	—
—	4	Whooping Cough					1	1
1	5	Diphtheria					3	—
13	6	Influenza					4	1
—	7	Encephalitis Lethargica					—	—
—	8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever					—	—
13	9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System					3	5
3	10	Other Tuberculosis					1	—
—	11	Syphilis					—	—
1	12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Dorsalis, etc.					—	—
19	13	Cancer, Malignant Disease					11	6
4	14	Diabetes					1	1
19	15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.					9	12
37	16	Heart Disease					29	21
—	17	Aneurysm					1	—
4	18	Other Circulatory Diseases					2	5
15	19	Bronchitis					8	8
11	20	Pneumonia (all forms)					9	7
7	21	Other Respiratory Diseases					2	5
3	22	Peptic Ulcer					—	—
1	23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)					—	—
2	24	Appendicitis					—	1
—	25	Cirrhosis of Liver					—	—
1	26	Other Liver Disease					1	1
11	27	Other Digestive Diseases					1	2
6	28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis					4	3
1	29	Puerperal Sepsis					—	1
—	30	Other Puerperal causes					—	1
12	31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.					6	1
15	32	Senility					4	8
2	33	Suicide					1	1
10	34	Other Violence					18	2
16	35	Other Defined Diseases					7	6
	36	Causes ill-defined or unknown					—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of deaths under one year:

		1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Boys		11	7	15	15	13
Girls		2	10	8	12	7
		—	—	—	—	—
		13	17	23	27	20
		—	—	—	—	—
Number of Live Births ...		298	294	309	378	344
Infant Death Rate... ..		43·62	57·82	74·75	71·42	58·13
County Rate		55·8	63·9	61·7	61·4	57·4
England and Wales ...		53	58	59	57	59

Deaths of Infants in Abercarn Urban Area:

Legitimate	12	17	23	27	17
Illegitimate	1	—	—	—	3
Average number of infant deaths... ..	1893-1914—83	Rate ...	160		
“ “ “	1915-1924—49	Rate ...	90·34		
“ “ “	1925-1934—27·1	Rate ...	65·12		
“ “ “	1935-1938—20·0	Rate ...	62·15		
Lowest number of infant deaths... ..	13 in 1938	Rate ...	43·62		
Highest number of infant deaths... ..	119 in 1897	Rate ...	221·0		
Lowest infant death rate	43·62 in 1938	Number	13		
Highest infant death rate	244 in 1899	Number	116		

Last year I had the pleasure of recording our lowest number of infant deaths ever registered in our district. This year I am delighted to report to you a further low record coupled with the lowest recorded infant death rate. This is indeed highly gratifying and reflects great credit on the Infant Welfare Clinics.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Infant Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Premature Birth ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	4
Bronchitis ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
	6	2	1	...	9	1	2	1	...	13
1937 ...	8	3	...	1	12	...	4	...	1	17
1936 ...	8	5	...	...	13	5	1	2	2	23
1935 ...	12	2	...	1	15	5	3	3	1	27
1934 ...	7	2	...	...	9	4	5	1	1	20
1933 ...	6	2	...	...	8	5	2	2	3	20
1932 ...	7	1	...	...	8	2	1	6	2	19

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officer of Health (part time), E. M. Griffith, M.D.,
M.B.C.M.

Sanitary Inspector, S. A. Moses (retired 1st April, 1938).

Sanitary Inspector, Ivor Jenkins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (on retirement of Mr. Moses).

Laboratory Facilities.

We have made considerable use of the County Laboratory facilities this year, owing to the number of cases of Diphtheria in the district which were notified.

Ambulance Facilities.

At the close of the year discussions were proceeding as to the provision of an ambulance by the Council and negotiations are intended with the St. John's Ambulance with a view to arranging suitable facilities. Grants are made by the Council to the local ambulance divisions.

Nursing in the Home.

The three voluntary Nursing Associations in the District, employing four District Nurses, continue to do splendid work. The Associations are affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Three Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are under the control of the County Council. The Centres are doing splendid work and excellent work is done by the local committees.

School Clinics are maintained by the County Education Committee at Newport, but dental and eye clinics visit the schools from time to time.

A Tuberculosis Centre is maintained by the Welsh National Memorial Association at Pontllanfraith (just outside our district) and the Tuberculosis Physician attends weekly.

A Venereal Disease Centre is attached to the Royal Gwent Hospital at Newport, which is maintained by the County Council.

Hospitals.

Our arrangements for accommodating infectious cases at the Bedwellty U.D. Council's Isolation Hospital at Aberbargoed are satisfactory. We sent 18 cases there during the year—two being of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and 16 of Diphtheria. One case of Typhoid was treated at Cardiff Corporation Isolation Hospital. The total cost incurred was £429/9/2 for the financial year. Our last case was sent in 1934.

Many other cases from our area are received into many other hospitals, mainly the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; The Royal Infirmary, Cardiff; The Aberbeeg, Blaina, Pontypool and Oakdale Hospitals. Almost all our tubercular cases receive treatment either at the dispensaries of the Welsh National Memorial Association or their sanatoria.

Public Mortuary and Post Mortem Room.

The Mortuary and Post Mortem Room provided by the Council at the cemetery is now available and provides accommodation for medical men to undertake post mortem examinations in much better circumstances.

Midwives.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council and the work they are called upon to perform should be of great benefit.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts.

Private Street Works Act, 1892 (15th November, 1921).

Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts, 1899—1936.

Baths and Washhouses Acts.

Special Acts.

Abercarn Urban District Gas Act, 1902.

Western Valleys (Mon.) Sewerage Board Acts, 1903-1921.

Abertillery and District Water Board Acts, 1910-1924.

Bye-Laws.

Slaughterhouses	14th June, 1895.
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Offensive Trades	do.
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Nuisances	do.
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Common Lodging Houses	do.
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Houses Let in Lodgings	do.
------------------------	-----

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	do.
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Private and Public Scavenging, 6th April, 1907.

Secondary Means of Access.

New Streets and Buildings, 27th July, 1926.

As to Parks and Pleasure Grounds and Cemetery.

Swimming Baths (in preparation).

Regulations.

As to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. There was a good, wholesome and plentiful supply of water throughout the year. Samples are taken by the Board from time to time to ensure a safe supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Western Valleys (Mon.) Sewerage Board. The main trunk sewer of the Board runs through the District from north to south and all our local subsidiary sewers are connected thereto. There has not been any important extension of sewers in the district during the year, although a short length was laid at Bryngwyn. Schemes are under consideration for extensions at Crosspenmaen, Pant and Aberbeeg.

RAINFALL.

Recorded at the Abercarn Cemetery.

1938	Depth Total	Greatest Fall 24 Hours		Number of Days with .01 or more recorded	1937 Fall
	Inches	Inches	Date		
January	8.61	1.07	16th	25	7.71
February	1.68	.81	25th	9	8.96
March .....	.34	.34	1st	1	4.69
April	—	—	—	—	5.05
May	4.93	1.23	31st	17	2.91
June	2.94	.92	1st	18	1.47
July	5.22	1.36	6th	21	3.38
August	3.71	.64	18th	21	1.23
September	3.60	.88	29th	15	2.32
October	7.82	2.15	3rd	21	4.92
November	8.77	1.81	12th	28	3.54
December	7.75	1.31	9th	24	4.42
	55.37	2.15	3-10-38	200	50.60
1937	50.60	2.02	15/ 7/37	177	—
1936	58.37	2.55	17/12/36	204	—
1935	57.59	2.02	9/10/35	201	—
1934	51.03	1.49	25/12/34	154	—
1933	30.63	2.15	9/10/33	86	—
1932	53.93	2.12	5/ 1/32	149	—
1931	54.56	3.55	27/ 5/31	176	—
1930	62.13	1.98	20/ 8/30	150	—
1929	58.92	2.16	3/ 8/29	111	—

Height above Sea Level

592.9 feet.

Average :

1900-12...52.19 inches

1913-18...No records

Lowest on record...30.63 in 1933.

1919-28...52.82 inches

Highest on record...72.05 in 1903.

1929-38...53.13 inches

House Scavenging.

This work continues to be done satisfactorily by the two contractors.

Scavenging Tips.

The difficulty of finding tipping place is becoming acute and in our narrow valley it creates a great problem. The matter is now under consideration by you, and I am confident you will ultimately find a solution. The system of controlled tipping is a great success.

Promiscuous Tipping.

During the past year there has been a considerable improvement in this connection. Nevertheless I hope that the Council will deal severely with any offenders.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Looking back over a period of years I have no hesitation in saying that the present sanitary state of the area is much in advance of what it was when I first became Medical Officer and no doubt this is due, to a very large extent, to the keenness of the respective Ward Members in looking after the sanitary interests of the Wards.

Swimming Bath.

Our Baths are being well patronised, and the bathing facilities are proving a boon to our district.

Camping Sites.

There are no Camping Sites in the Area.

Rat Destruction.

I am satisfied that the Rat Catcher is doing excellent work and has helped to relieve the district considerably.

Bed Bugs.

There can be no excuse for this nuisance, and I hope the Council will consider the suggestion of making an example of any case which arises. I am sure that if this were done the nuisance would ultimately disappear. Under no circumstances should vermin be tolerated.

Mining Subsidence.

The subsidence at Crumlin referred to in my last Report, continues, but we can do no more than watch the position carefully and re-house tenants of any property in a dangerous condition.

Public Conveniences.

The Council adopted my suggestion to install flushing apparatus in the public conveniences, but I am sorry damage has been done, by hooligans, to the installations.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The past year has been a busy one in regard to housing.

The Council's re-housing programme comprises 84 houses, namely :—

	No.	Type A2	Type A3	Standard Accommoda- tion
George Street	16	4	12	76
Ashfield Road	16	6	10	74
Troedyrhiw	16	—	16	80
Crosspenmaen	20	6	14	94
Trinant	16	—	16	80
	—	—	—	—
	84	16	68	404
	—	—	—	—

In addition the Council propose erecting 26 houses at Pentwyn-mawr and four houses at Penrhiw Terrace, Llanfach.

The number of persons to be rehoused are as follows :—

George Street	54
Ashfield Road	55
Troedyrhiw	53
Crosspenmaen	78
Trinant	74
	—
	314
	—

There is no comparison whatsoever between the accommodation offered to these fortunate folk and their former dwellings. The houses are well constructed, in healthy situations, with all modern conveniences.

Number of houses erected during the year :

By the Council	54
By Private enterprise	9
	—
	63
	—

The following statement is in the form prescribed :—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	356
--	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	409
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	126
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	152
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	22
2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	57
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	120
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	112
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	88
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	76
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	108

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	41
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	25
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	2
4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	17
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	21
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	150
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	89
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding...	Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Retail Purveyors	73
Wholesale Purveyors	53
Milk Producers using milk for cheese-making and feeding animals	12

Dairies, milkshops and cowsheds are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and in conjunction with the County Sanitary Inspector, samples are taken from time to time.

Bakehouses.

All the bakehouses in the area were inspected during the year and I am satisfied that the bread supply of the district is good. It would be a great improvement if all bread were wrapped before delivery.

Slaughterhouses.

Registered Slaughterhouses	6
Licensed Slaughterhouse	1

The Sanitary Inspector constantly supervises and inspects the Slaughterhouses.

Inspection of Meat.

During 1938 the following were slaughtered for local consumption :—

	1938	1937	1936	1935
Cattle	519	597	682	402
Sheep	4617	4361	4959	2001
Pigs	622	784	939	505
Pigs killed privately.....	45	77	121	46
Calves	223	236	290	101
	<u>6026</u>	<u>6055</u>	<u>6991</u>	<u>3155</u>

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	142	377	223	4617	667
Number inspected.....	142	377	223	4617	667
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases con- demned	Nil	1	1	2	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	2	14	Nil	60	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis ...	1.4	3.97	0.44	1.3	2.4
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases con- demned	2	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	28	Nil	Nil	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.6	10.1	—	—	3.1

Unsound Food.

During 1938 the following were condemned for human consumption :—

	1936	1937	1938
English Meat :			
Beef	18 cwts.	21 cwts.	25 cwts.
Bacon	25 lbs.	70 lbs.	170 lbs.
Pork, Offal, etc.....	530 lbs.	480 lbs.	360 lbs.
Foreign and Chilled Meat :			
Beef, etc.	19 lbs.	1 cwt.	2 cwts.
Fish	92 lbs.	120 lbs.	159 lbs.
Vegetables and Fruit	56 lbs.	212 lbs.	206 lbs.
Bottled and Tinned Goods :			
Condensed Milk ...	22 tins	40 tins	60 tins
Salmon	15 tins	30 tins	90 tins
Corned Beef	12 tins	22 tins	87 tins
Tomatoes	52 tins	30 tins	66 tins
Mixed Fruits	12 tins	36 tins	47 tins

Seven carcasses of beef were condemned complete with offal due to general tuberculosis, and two carcasses of mutton due to emaciation associated with dropsy.

FRIED FISH SHOPS AND ICE CREAM SHOPS.

Continual visits are made to these premises by the Sanitary Inspector. After the 1st October, 1939, ice cream dealers' premises must be registered.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Once again, for another year, we have been comparatively free from infectious cases, apart from the usual mild type of scarlet fever and mostly "contact" cases of diphtheria. Every case is visited and advice given as to isolation.

Notifiable Diseases During 1938.

1937	Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted Hospital	Total Deaths
—	Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
68	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	78	—	—
10	Diphtheria	...	...	...	32	16	3
1	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	1	1	—
—	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1	—	1
10	Pneumonia	...	...	...	16	—	16
18	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	13	12	9
8	Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	2	2	—
1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Chicken Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	2
116	Total	...	...	...	143	31	31
1937	.....				116	12	28
1936	.....				82	13	43
1935	.....				64	13	43
1934	.....				145	11	38
1933	.....				80	14	34
1932	.....				185	20	33
1931	.....				143	10	33
1930	.....				127	7	38

Analysis of Cases Notified—In Age Groups.

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65	Total
Diphtheria			2		2	16	8	—	2	—			32
Erysipelas													
Scarlet Fever			5	8	9	30	12	6	5	2	1		78
Tuberculosis					1	1		1	7	1	2		13
Puerperal Pyrexia									1				1
Pneumonia	2	1	1		1	4	1	1	1		3	1	16
Enceph. Lethargica ...													
Chicken Pox													
Small Pox													
Ophthal. Neonatorum													
Cerebro Spinal Fever						2							2
Paratyphoid									1				1
Totals	2	1	8	8	13	53	21	9	17	4	6	1	143
1937	1	2	5	6	8	35	24	10	8	10	7	—	116
1936	—	1	1	5	4	21	9	2	17	8	12	2	82
1935	1	1	2	6	2	15	6	5	12	5	8	1	64
1934	6	7	7	11	6	35	27	10	20	5	9	2	145
1933	3	6	4	2	1	26	5	9	12	4	7	1	80
1932	13	7	10	10	14	68	37	8	10	4	3	1	185
1931	4	9	6	12	7	60	19	9	9	1	4	3	143
1930		5	6	7	14	49	18	3	10	6	7	2	127

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING PAST SIX YEARS.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	78	68	28	27	92	28
Diphtheria	32	10	8	3	9	11
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	1	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	16	10	13	6	7	6
Tuberculosis	13	18	27	21	22	24
Erysipelas	—	8	6	5	10	6
Enceph. Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	2	3
Para-Typhoid	1	—	—	—	—	—
	143	116	82	64	145	80

Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified were :—

	1938	1937	1936	1935
North Ward	16	23	7	8
Central Ward	21	10	8	5
Torlais Ward	10	3	2	2
South Ward	15	16	8	8
East Ward	6	12	2	—
West Ward	10	4	1	4
	—	—	—	—
	78	68	28	27
	—	—	—	—
First Quarter	49	14	7	12
Second Quarter	16	3	5	4
Third Quarter	8	14	6	2
Fourth Quarter	5	37	10	9
	—	—	—	—
	78	68	28	27
	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—

All the cases were of a mild type.

Measles.

	1938	1937	1936	1935
Deaths	—	—	—	2

Whooping Cough.

	1938	1937	1936	1935
Deaths	2	—	4	2

Enteric Fever.

One case only occurred and the patient recovered.

Diphtheria.

	1938	1937	1936	1935
Cases notified were :				
South Ward	1	1	1	3
East Ward	3	—	1	—
West Ward	—	—	—	—
Central Ward	5	—	2	—
Torlais Ward	1	—	—	—
North Ward	22	9	4	—
	—	—	—	—
	32	10	8	3
	—	—	—	—
Deaths	3	1	—	—

12 of the 22 cases in the North Ward were in Treowen, 5 of the cases being in 2 houses in Old Treowen. Most of the cases were "contacts" and owing to the fact that they were children in large families, therefore it was almost impossible to isolate them and we had to send them to Bedwellty Isolation Hospital. The Council have now agreed to the principle of immunisation and I hope to make arrangements with the County Medical Officer to carry out this work.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality in 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
25	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
55	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	5	5	—	3	3	5	1	—
1937	6	7	1	4	8	5	1	2
1936	11	9	3	4	5	5	1	—
1935	8	8	3	2	9	5	4	1
1934	8	12	2	—	4	12	1	2
1933	5	12	6	1	2	5	2	—
1932	5	5	4	7	2	4	3	—

SUMMARY.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
New Cases...	13	18	27	21	22	24
Deaths	9	16	11	19	19	9

All our cases are treated by the Welsh National Memorial Association and most are sent away to one or other of the Sanatoria. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector whenever necessary.

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES. DEATHS.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Bronchitis	16	15	17	10	12	16
Pneumonia	16	11	17	19	14	15
Other Forms	7	7	3	9	8	17
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Deaths	39	33	37	38	34	48
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death Rate	2.10	1.75	1.90	1.93	1.72	2.40

CANCER. DEATHS.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Males	11	9	7	7	9	7
Females	6	10	12	2	9	8
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	17	19	19	9	18	15
	—	—	—	—	—	—

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

The following is a summary:—

25 inquests were held on residents in 1938 compared with 8 last year.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Mining accidents	7	2	3	2	3
Silicosis	1	—	—	3	—
Motor accidents	4	3	1	4	—
Drowning	1	1	2	—	1
Burns, etc.	2	—	1	—	—
Suicide, etc.	2	2	2	—	—
Railway	—	—	—	—	—
Falls	2	—	2	1	3
Natural Causes	5	—	1	4	3
Other Causes	1	—	4	1	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	25	8	16	15	11
	—	—	—	—	—

ABERCARN MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

I beg to submit the Annual Report of the above Clinic:—

(a) Details found in Mothers and Children examined at the Centre:

Bronchitis	35
Gastritis	6
Stomatitis	8
Impetigo	4

Eczema	10	
Anaemia	7	
Umbilical Hernia	5	
Otorrhoea	8	
Diarrhoea	12	
Phimosis	7	
Constipation	8	
Blepharitis	6	

Toddlers :

Anaemia	12	
Dental Caries	6	
Bronchitis	7	
Otorrhoea	4	
Orthopaedia	3	
	—	116
		32

(b) Details of Infant Feeding :

Breast fed	68
Ostermilk or Glaxo	38
Cow and Gate	26
Nestlé's and Virol	40
Cows' Milk	39
Traford	7

Toddlers (Ord. Feeding): 60.

(c) *Infants*: Number on Register at end of year 278

Number of attendances during year:—

New cases under 1 year	118
1—5 years	1
Revisits, under 1 year	2356
Revisits, 1—5 years	1755
Total under 1 year	2378
Total 1—5 years	1756
Total attendances	4130

Average attendance was 81.87: The average attendance varies very little year after year.

(d) The general conditions in this area has considerably improved during the year as regards unemployment—with the result that free food has not been given except in cases of illness; or to a very small extent.

(e) *Drugs* are rarely prescribed at this Centre.

(f) *Malnutrition*:—

(i) *In Nursing Mothers* has not been noticed to anything like the extent it was some years ago, owing to as before mentioned, that times have been better.

- (ii) *Non-Nursing Mothers*: The same conditions apply.
- (iii) *Babies*. Very few have been seen at the Clinic as the Mothers are very keen on the health and general well-being of their babies.

In conclusion I should like to again say that we have been at this Clinic very fortunate in retaining year after year the services of splendid Health Visitors—Nurse Lord who has been in charge ever since this Clinic opened is as keen and enthusiastic as ever, and she is splendidly backed up by Nurse Hopkins. The local Committee of ladies are also enthusiastic. No praise can be too much for their efforts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. M. GRIFFITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices, Abercarn, Mon.

24th May, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my first Annual Report of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year.

I was appointed on the 1st April, 1938, when your late Sanitary Inspector retired on superannuation.

I am pleased to be able to report that although some considerable work had to be done in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance programme, other work affecting the department was attended to without much delay.

Housing.

The year 1938 will be particularly outstanding because the new housing schemes were nearing completion and the occupiers of the majority of the unfit houses were rehoused.

Altogether 160 houses were dealt with and during the year 53 families were rehoused under conditions which are vastly in advance of the conditions which existed in the unfit houses and which should lead to a happier and a more healthy people.

A tabulated statement is given below of the position :—

<i>Demolition</i>	<i>Closing</i>	<i>Reconditioning</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
<i>Orders</i>	<i>Orders</i>	<i>Orders</i>	<i>Rehoused</i>	<i>Rehoused</i>
108	25	27	54	314

Repairs.

This side of the housing work has been attended to each month. I endeavour to inspect a number of houses in addition to those in respect of which I receive complaints.

When defects are found I notify the owners, and if nothing is done I report the matter to the Council and obtain an authority to serve a statutory notice.

During the year 121 Notices were served, and work was carried out in all except eight cases, these have been followed up.

Overcrowding.

I am pleased to report that the overcrowding position is very favourable and that when the Trinant houses are occupied we shall be in a much better position, the tabulated statement shows the present position.

Scavenging.

The collection of refuse in the Urban Area is carried out by Contractors who operate with two lorries, collections are made three times weekly except from the isolated parts of the district.

Some six months ago the Council extended the service to cover the collection of trade refuse from business premises, also all classes of refuse from private houses, this has been the means of some improvement in the condition of the streets, nevertheless dumping is still occurring in some parts of the district and some of the accommodation roads are in a shocking state, efforts have been made to discover the persons responsible, but so far we have been unsuccessful.

Disposal.

Controlled tipping is carried out at the Pentwynmawr tip and I am pleased to report that the tip is well regulated and there is a complete absence of nuisance of any kind.

The Cwmcarn tip is not controlled but is kept as tidy as possible by the contractor, and there is not much cause for complaint at this tip.

It may be of interest to record that the average weekly number of loads collected during the year was 65 loads from the Northern area and 60 loads from the Southern.

Ashpits.

The Ashpits at Celynfen and Crosspenmaen were put out of use during the year and refuse is now collected direct from each house, this appears to be working satisfactorily, as I have not received any complaints from either place.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The number of water-closets without flushing cisterns is still a matter of grave concern, during the year I have been able to persuade owners to put in 33 without the service of notice.

Public Conveniences.

There are seven Urinals in the district and with the exception of two they are in a satisfactory condition.

It is a matter for regret that much damage has been done to these buildings during the year.

Factory and Workshops.

These are all visited at intervals and the Sanitary conditions noted. Only in two cases was it found necessary to take any action.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The food supplies of the district have again received constant supervision, meat and milk taking preference as the ensuing details will show.

Milk Supply :—

Number of persons registered as producers	53
Number of persons registered as purveyors ...	73
Number of persons resident outside the area re- tailing milk in the area	6
Number of samples taken during the year	64
Number of samples found to be unsatisfactory	11

An arrangement was made with the County Medical Officer to take periodical samples from all retailers, this has proved to be an excellent arrangement, and has done much to improve the cleanliness and quality of the milk supply.

Meat Inspection.—This part of the work has been regularly attended to and effort has been made to inspect all animals at the time of slaughter or as soon as possible afterwards.

It will be seen from the tabulated statement that only a small percentage was found to be unfit.

It will be observed that the number of private persons slaughtering pigs is decreasing annually.

On and after October 31st, 1939, all premises where food is cooked or prepared for sale, will have to be registered. In the case of the Council's District, the shops concerned are Ice Cream, Fish and Chip and Butchers who prepare cooked meats and sausage.

Drainage.

The drainage of the district is on the whole working satisfactorily, although subsidence has caused some trouble at Crumlin and the Pant. It is hoped that the new sewers at Crosspenmaen and the Pant will be completed during the year.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The Council has accepted delegation of the duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and these duties are carried out very efficiently by Mr. C. Rees, who attends to all Council property and also to complaints from private persons. This appears to be a very economical and satisfactory way of dealing with this trouble.

Sanitary Inspections.

During the year 348 complaints were received as detailed below :

<i>Nature of Complaint.</i>	<i>Number received</i>
Choked drains	78
Choked sewers	22
Dilapidations	98
Verminous Premises	16
Rats	60
Defective W.C.'s	36
Accumulation of Refuse	34
Defective Yard Paving	4

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Record of Nuisances abated and work done :—

No. of houses and premises redrained	9
Drains unstopped and cleansed	78
New gully traps fixed	13
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	7
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	19
New W.C. accommodation provided	23
New W.C. pedestals fixed	28
W.C.'s unstopped, cleansed and repaired	14
New Flushing cisterns provided	36
Sinks provided	13
New Urinals	1
Urinals abolished	1

Miscellaneous.

New roofs provided	4
Roofs repaired	38
Eaves, gutters repaired	29
Eaves, gutters renewed	19
Down pipes provided	11
Down pipes repaired	36
Damp walls remedied	54
External walls plastered	9
External walls pointed	16
Internal walls plastered	11
Yards repaired	18
New Windows provided	8
New Floors provided	13
Ceilings repaired	22
Pantries provided	8
Fire grates repaired	17
New doors provided	6
Doors repaired	19

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS, 1901.

Factories Act, 1937 (as from 1st July, 1938).

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power...	16	—	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	9	2	Nil
Other Premises under the Act	4	1	Nil
Total	29	3	Nil

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Factories—30.

Workshops—27

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Prosecutions. No. of
	Found	Re- medied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. JENKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1938 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Pop'l'tion estimated to middle of each year	Births		Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	To other D'ri'cts	Of resid'ts away	Under 1 year		At all Ages.	
								No.	Rate per 1000 Nett	No.	Rate
1922	20840	507	24.32	188		1	29	46	96.45	216	10.36
1923	20990	503	24.53	208		24	19	33	64.07	203	9.66
1924	21140	532	25.16	218		28	29	45	84.58	219	10.35
1925	21260	535	25.16	229		26	23	27	87.86	226	10.63
1926	20800	479	23.02	186		24	17	47	56.58	179	8.60
1927	20920	408	19.50	200		32	25	31	75.98	193	9.22
1928	20980	417	19.82	192		29	24	25	59.95	187	8.91
1929	20960	465	22.18	213		23	39	33	70.96	228	10.88
1930	20960	377	17.98	201		23	20	26	68.96	198	9.44
1931	20680	371	17.94	241	11.65	22	49	23	61.99	268	12.95
1932	20260	373	18.41	218	10.76	34	27	19	50.93	211	10.41
1933	19970	334	16.72	230	11.52	31	27	20	59.88	226	11.31
1934	19720	344	17.44	216	10.95	33	26	20	58.13	203	10.59
1935	19667	378	19.22	205	10.42	32	29	27	71.42	202	10.27
1936	19430	309	15.90	199	10.41	31	48	23	74.75	216	11.11
1937	18750	294	15.68	206	10.98	26	47	17	57.82	227	12.10
1938	18510	298	16.09	214	11.56	25	36	13	43.62	225	12.15

Area of District: 9543 Acres.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER DISTRICTS.
(included at request of the Council).

		Aber-carn		County	E'gland and Wales		Aber-tillery	Myny'd islwyn	Tred-egar	Ebbw Vale	Bed-welly
		1938	1937		1938	1937					
1	Population	...	...	1938	1938	1937	1937	1937	1937	1937	1937
2	Area in Acres	...	...	—	—	14990	28600	13320	21140	29850	28640
3	Inhabited Houses	...	...	—	—	4195	6463	5415	—	6817	7355
4	Number of Council Houses	...	...	—	—	3600	6861	3220	—	6485	6362
5	Birth Rate	...	...	—	—	670	177	354	329	570	727
6	Death Rate	...	...	16.1	15.1	14.5	16.9	17.3	11.2	17.4	18.57
7	Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	12.1	11.6	12.6	12.7	10.5	11.9	14.9	10.9
		...	...	55.8	53	32.1	74.2	43.2	105.0	95.9	63.7